

## Resurrection Catholic Parish

### GUIDELINES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

1. On Saturday evenings and Sundays (and other Masses when needed) three laypersons assist the celebrating priest in the distribution of Holy Communion: One helps distribute the Precious Body of Our Lord; two others help distribute the Chalices of Precious Blood of Our Lord.
  - a. If the Deacon or more than one Priest is present, the person scheduled to distribute the Precious Body will not be needed.
2. When the Lamb of God begins, distributors should proceed to the sanctuary.
  - a. One of the distributors should pick up the offertory basket in front of the altar and take it to the closet in the sacristy. Close the closet door to lock it.
3. All distributors should apply hand sanitizer, located on the small shelf near either of the sacristy doors, before distributing Holy Communion.
4. Distributors should move to their place for reception of Holy Communion. All distributors will stand on the left (east) side of the altar, with the Servers standing on the right (west) side. The distributor of the Precious Body stands closest to the steps leading to the tabernacle.
5. After ministering the Precious Body to the servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, the Priest ministers the Precious Blood to the two Chalice Ministers -- giving them each a chalice and a linen purificator; they in turn minister the Precious Blood to the other Extraordinary Minister of Communion and the servers.
6. Communion is distributed to anyone sitting in the front pews (elderly, handicapped, etc.) before the Ministers go to their respective Communion stations.
7. The Minister of the Precious Body stands next to the Priest at the head of the center aisle.
  - a. The Minister of the Precious Body shows the Consecrated Host to each communicant and says, *The Body of Christ*.
8. The Ministers of the Precious Blood stand near or in-line with the side aisle ends of the pews so as to allow a steady flow for communicants as they return to their places.
  - a. The Minister of the Precious Blood says, *The Blood of Christ*. The Minister holds out the Chalice for the communicant to take and drink. The Minister wipes the rim of the chalice with the purificator and turns the chalice a little for the next communicant.

**Note, the following information is from pages 42-45 of the Guide for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. A copy of the booklet is on the bookshelf in the sacristy.**

**If the Body of Christ is Dropped:** If a host, or part of a host, falls to the floor, simply bend down and pick it up immediately and reverently. The host should be kept separate. You might hold the dropped host in the palm of the hand that you are using to hold the paten or ciborium, until you are free to give it to the priest following the distribution of Holy Communion, to be consumed or disposed of properly.

**If the Precious Blood is Spilled:** If a drop falls from the chalice, immediately use your purificator or corporal to wipe it up. Usually, such spills are quite small and you can use a small portion of your purificator to clean it up, and then continue using the same purificator to wipe the chalice as you distribute Holy Communion. In the case of a larger spill, you may need to ask the

sacristan for a fresh purificator before you can continue distributing Holy Communion. Take your time in cleaning up when the Precious Blood is spilled. (Clean purificators, white cloth with a cross on it, are kept in the drawer to the lower right of the refrigerator in the sacristy.)

Following Holy Communion or after Mass, the place where the Precious Blood was spilled should be wiped down with a damp cloth, which is then rinsed in the sacrarium like other altar linens. This is usually not the responsibility of the individual extraordinary ministers, but of the sacristan. *(Alert Cindy Wolf or the person who closes up after Mass.)*

**Requests for Communion by Intinction:** It is never permitted for the communicant to dip the host into the chalice (intinction) and receive for himself or herself. The best practice when someone approaches holding the host is to cover the chalice with the purificator, and say gently, "please consume your host then you can receive from the chalice." If the communicant requests intinction, you simply say "I'm not permitted to give you Communion by intinction, but after you receive your host I can give Communion from the chalice."

**Additional information per Fr. Rick (8/4/25):**

**People who come forward with arms crossed:** This indicates the person does not want to receive Communion, but would like a blessing. There are no specific ritual words for this, but the following is suggested - "May the Lord bless you and keep you" and, while a priest/deacon may say this words and impart the sign of the cross, an extraordinary minister should only use the words.

9. When all communicants have received the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord:
  - a. **The Minister of the Precious Body** returns the ciborium to the altar. The Priest or Deacon will return the ciborium with the Precious Body to the tabernacle.
  - b. **The Ministers of the Chalice** should consume any Precious Blood remaining in the chalice at their Communion station. Then the Ministers of the Precious Blood return the empty chalices to the altar.
10. **Wait for the Precious Body to be returned to the tabernacle.** All distributors should stand off to the side of the altar while the priest or deacon returns the ciborium with the Precious Body to the tabernacle. All bow together to the tabernacle after it has been closed.
11. **After the Precious Body has been returned to the tabernacle,** the Eucharistic Ministers bow before the altar before returning to their pews.
12. The Priest or Deacon will purify the ciborium, paten and chalices.